

Memorial United Methodist Church At-Home Worship
Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

I'm so glad you're taking this opportunity to participate in worship with us. While we are not gathering in the sanctuary, I trust and believe, we are gathered together with God in spirit and in truth.

We hope you will join us throughout this holy week, worshipping on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7 p.m. and on Easter Sunday.

—*Pastor Cathy Rafferty*

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome and Prayer

Ruler of our Hearts and Lives, as the crowd shouted in joy when the gates of the city swung open to welcome the humble king so long ago, so may our hearts be opened with joy to Christ's Spirit among us.

As Jesus wept over Jerusalem while its leaders schemed against him, so may we weep for our communities, for our symbols of power and authority, and for all of us who know not what we may yet do in these times.

As we gather to worship on this Palm Sunday, may we find the grace and the courage to continue the journey of Jesus through this holy week, until we come at last through it all to Easter resurrection. Amen.

Music to Center Ourselves: *"Hosana, Loud Hosana"*

Debbie Hubbard

We Share the Story of God

Sharing from Paul's Letters: Philippians 2:5-11 (NRSV)

Dennis Stanek

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name

that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word in Music: *"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"*

Debbie Hubbard

Sharing from the Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)

Claire Marlett

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Message for Today: “Our King Is Not Like Other Kings”

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Respond to God

Offering Our Gifts and Commitments

Please give online at www.gladstonechurch.org

Or mail checks payable to: Memorial UMC, 1920 Lake Shore Dr., Gladstone, MI 49837

Offering Our Prayers with The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Please email prayer requests to mumc@gladstonechurch.org or call (906) 428-9311

We Go, Blessed to Serve

Blessing:

Receive the blessing of God, to whose kingdom we belong.

Receive the blessing of Jesus, who rules in humble service.

Receive the blessing of Spirit, who draws us together in love and sends us out to serve.

Music for Going Forth: “Hold Your Fire”

Andre Villoch

To prayerful ponder or discuss:

- Aside from Jesus, who or what comes to mind when you hear the word “king”? Write or draw for a few moments. Overall, are your impressions positive or negative? Write or draw again, working to emphasize whichever, positive or negative, you did not choose.
- In your view, how does Jesus compare to your impressions of other kings? What other images or titles for Jesus have meaning for you?
- Read Philippians 2:1-4, leading up to today’s reading. In what ways can you more closely follow Jesus through Holy Week?